Dewan's reply.—The appointment of a Mahomedan Inspector of Schools has been under the consideration of Government. The delay is due to the fact that a suitable Mahomedan gentleman with the requisite qualifications and experience of Mahomedan schools has not been found yet.

As for the entertainment of Mahomedans in the Public Service, there are at present 473 Mahomedans in the service, including 67 Mahomedans employed in the Education Department.

The other suggestions will receive consideration.

149. Social disabilities of Ezhavas.

Mr. K. M. Krishnan (Member, Nominated) objected to the observance of *theendal* and of the disabilities which followed it and requested that a proclamation be issued announcing the total abolition of *theendal*. His next prayer was that sign boards prohibiting the *theendal* castes from using certain roads and lanes should be removed. In regard to the admission to schools, there were some still, which ought to be thrown open to all classes of His Highness' subjects.

In conclusion, the Member prayed that Government orders in regard to the employment of members of his community in the Public Service should be enforced and that quarterly returns of such appointments be called for from the Heads of Departments.

Dewan's reply.—The number of Ezhavas in the State Service is 476, of whom 24 are in the Excise Department, 33 in the Police, 202 in the Educational and 27 in the Medical Departments. The policy of Government is to employ Ezhavas freely provided they are qualified under the rules. The requests of the Member are noted.

150. Social disabilities of the depressed classes.

Mr. Kurumban Daivathan (Member, Nominated) brought to notice the social disabilities of the depressed classes, and submitted that they could not use the roads except on pain of ill-treatment at the hands of other communities. Their children could not get admission into schools without the assistance of the Police. They could not approach hospitals, temples or other institutions. Their grievances could not be represented in person to the higher officers. The Government should, therefore, step in and remove their disabilities. The Member prayed that a Committee of enlightened Hindu gentlemen should be appointed to do the work of enlisting the sympathy of the people at large towards the uplift of the depressed classes. He also submitted that the Pulayas and Parayas and some other backward classes were not on the same level with the Jews and Mahomedans whose material condition was considerably better and that a more liberal policy should be shown towards the former in the matter of fee concession and scholarships.

Dewan's reply.—Noted.

151. Need for a special enactment to safeguard the welfare of Parayas.

Mr. Kandan Kumaran (Member, Nominated) requested that, if separate legislation was not possible, special steps should be taken to raise the Parayas from their depressed condition. They were grateful for the encouragement given of late in the matter of education. The Member then requested that, as there were no departmental or private schools in Kalluppara and its neighbourhood where a large portion of Parayas and Pulayas lived, the Government be pleased to start a school which would be of use to Mahomedans also.

He also represented that they suffered much at the hands of the subordinate staff. They were not being allowed to attend courts and public offices.

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In conclusion, the Member spoke about the decadence of their cottage industries such as basket-making, mat-making, etc., and prayed that they be saved from the unnecessary restrictions imposed by the Forest Department.

Dewan's reply.—Noted.

152. Entertainment of South Travancore Christians in the various ranks of the State Service.

Mr. D. Francis (Member, Nominated) said that South Travancore Christians were practically not represented in the subordinate service, though they formed one-fourth of the population and one-third of the literates in South Travancore. It was due to the unsympathetic attitude of the Heads of Departments in whom the power of appointments mostly lay. The policy pursued in the matter of entertaining the backward classes should be extended to the members of his community also. The Revenue Department was totally closed to the Christians. They might be freely entertained at least as clerks in the Taluk and Division Cutcherries.

Dewan's reply.—Noted.

153. Entertainment of an adequate number of Roman Catholic Christians in the State Service.

Mr. M. F. Augustine (Member, Nominated) regretted that, in spite of the representations on the subject at the several sessions of the Assembly, the Government had not taken the necessary steps towards securing adequate representation in the State service to Roman Catholic Christians. In the absence of a list of the employés classified according to caste or creed he was not in a position to give the exact number of Christians employed in the lower ranks. The Member also observed that the paucity was due to the policy of their exclusion from the Revenue and Military Departments.

The Member prayed that the Government might be pleased to adopt the most sympathetic policy towards the Catholics in the matter of their appointment and promotion in the lower grades of the service including the Revenue and Military Departments.

Dewan's reply.—Noted.

154. Entertainment of Ezhavas and other backward communities in the State Service.

Mr. G. Padmanabhan (Member, Nominated) thanked the Government on behalf of the backward communities for the liberal policy pursued in recent years in the matter of admission of qualified members of those communities in the several departments of the State. The subject had been brought forward at the various sessions of the Assembly. All that he prayed for was that, among men of equal qualifications, preference should be given in the matter of appointments to candidates from the backward communities.

The Member particularly requested that Ezhavas should be more largely employed in the Excise, Education, Anchal, Registration, Police and Revenue departments.

Dewan's reply.—Noted.

155. Entertainment of a larger number of Nairs in the State Service.

Mr. G. Ramakrishna Kurup (Member, Chirayinkil Taluk) said that, from the very first session of the Assembly, the different communities had been urging their claims for preferment in the Public Service, and that the Nair Members alone were dealing with general questions. He trusted that the authorities and the other communities would not construe their silence till now as their whole-hearted contentment with their present number in the different branches of the Government service. The impression among the Nair community was that they had not secured that share of Government appointments which was theirs in virtue of their position, material wealth, the tax they paid, their educational qualifications, high literary and general enlightenment. The Member then gave statistics of Nair employees in the various branches of the service and contended that the proportion was comparatively small.

Dewan's reply.—Noted.

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